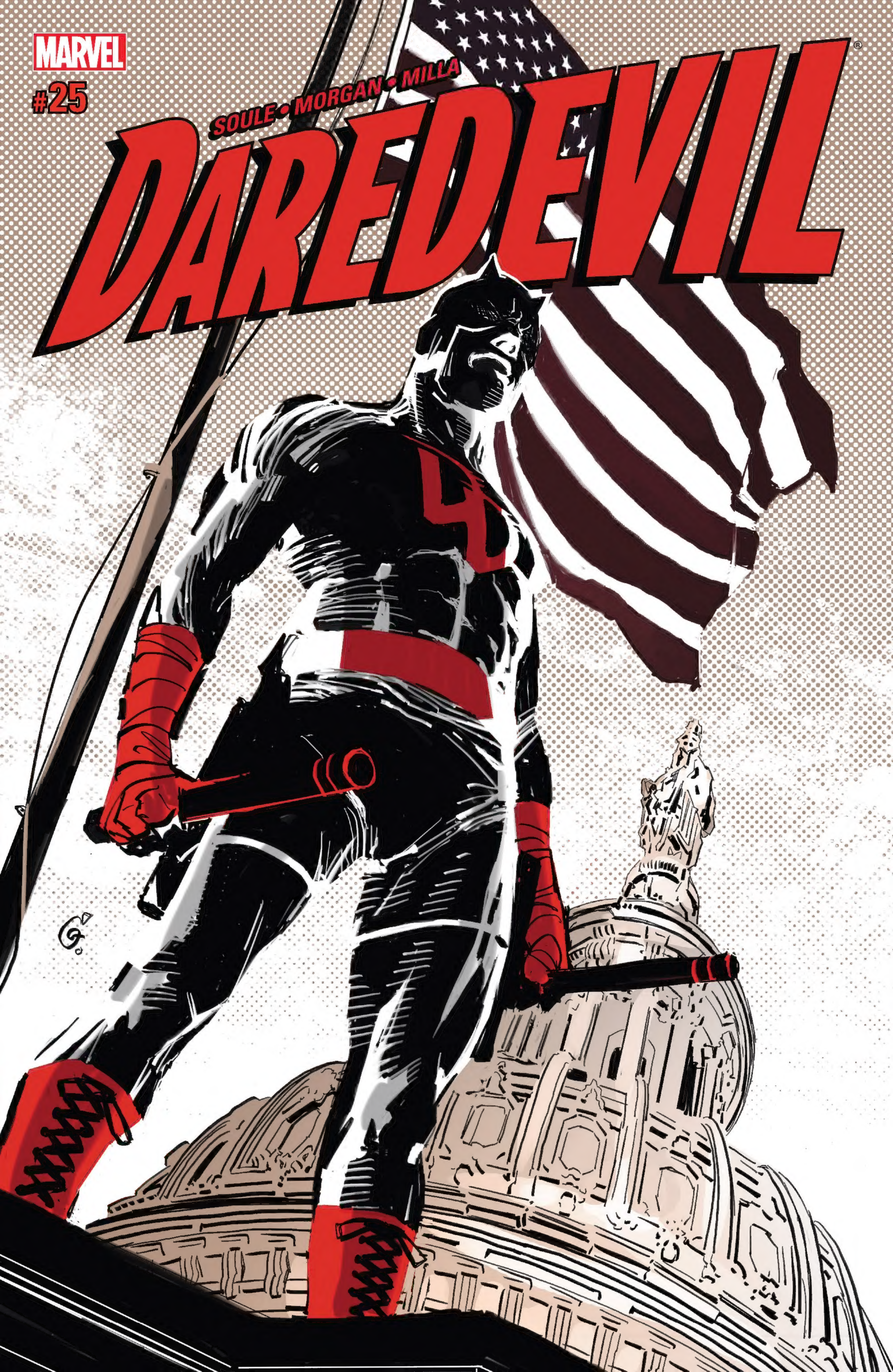


MARVEL

#25

SOULE • MORGAN • MILLA

DAREDEVIL



WHEN MATT MURDOCK WAS A KID, HE LOST HIS SIGHT IN AN ACCIDENT INVOLVING A TRUCK CARRYING RADIOACTIVE CHEMICALS. THOUGH HE COULD NO LONGER SEE, THE CHEMICALS HEIGHTENED MURDOCK'S OTHER SENSES AND IMBUED HIM WITH AN AMAZING 360-RADAR SENSE. NOW MATT USES HIS ABILITIES TO FIGHT FOR HIS CITY. HE IS THE *MAN WITHOUT FEAR*. HE IS...

DAREDEVIL

MATT MURDOCK WON HIS FIRST VICTORY IN THE NEW YORK STATE SUPREME COURT. HAVING CONVINCED THE COURTS TO ALLOW DAREDEVIL TO TESTIFY AS A WITNESS WITHOUT REVEALING HIS TRUE IDENTITY (WHICH, UNBEKNOWNST TO THE WORLD AT LARGE, IS MATT MURDOCK), A PRECEDENT WAS SET THAT COULD LEGITIMIZE SUPER HEROES' INVOLVEMENT IN THE LEGAL PROCESS. BUT THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE UNHAPPY WITH MATT'S AGENDA--AMONG THEM IS WILSON FISK (A.K.A. THE KINGPIN), WHO HAS BEGUN A TWO-PRONGED STRIKE AGAINST MATT. FISK HAS HIRED THE EXPERT ATTORNEY KNOWN ONLY AS LEGAL TO FIGHT MURDOCK IN COURT, WHILE ENGAGING TOMBSTONE AS PLAN B TO SNUFF OUT MURDOCK IN THE STREETS. MATT'S ONLY CHOICE HAS BEEN TO PUSH FORWARD, AND NOW HE AND HIS OLD FRIEND FOGGY ARE HEADED TO THE HIGHEST COURT IN THE COUNTRY FOR THE FINAL BATTLE...

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I can't believe I'm actually *here*.

HOW'S IT LOOK, FOGGY?

YOU CAN'T SEE IT? EVEN WITH YOUR POWERS?

AN OUTLINE, NOT MANY DETAILS.

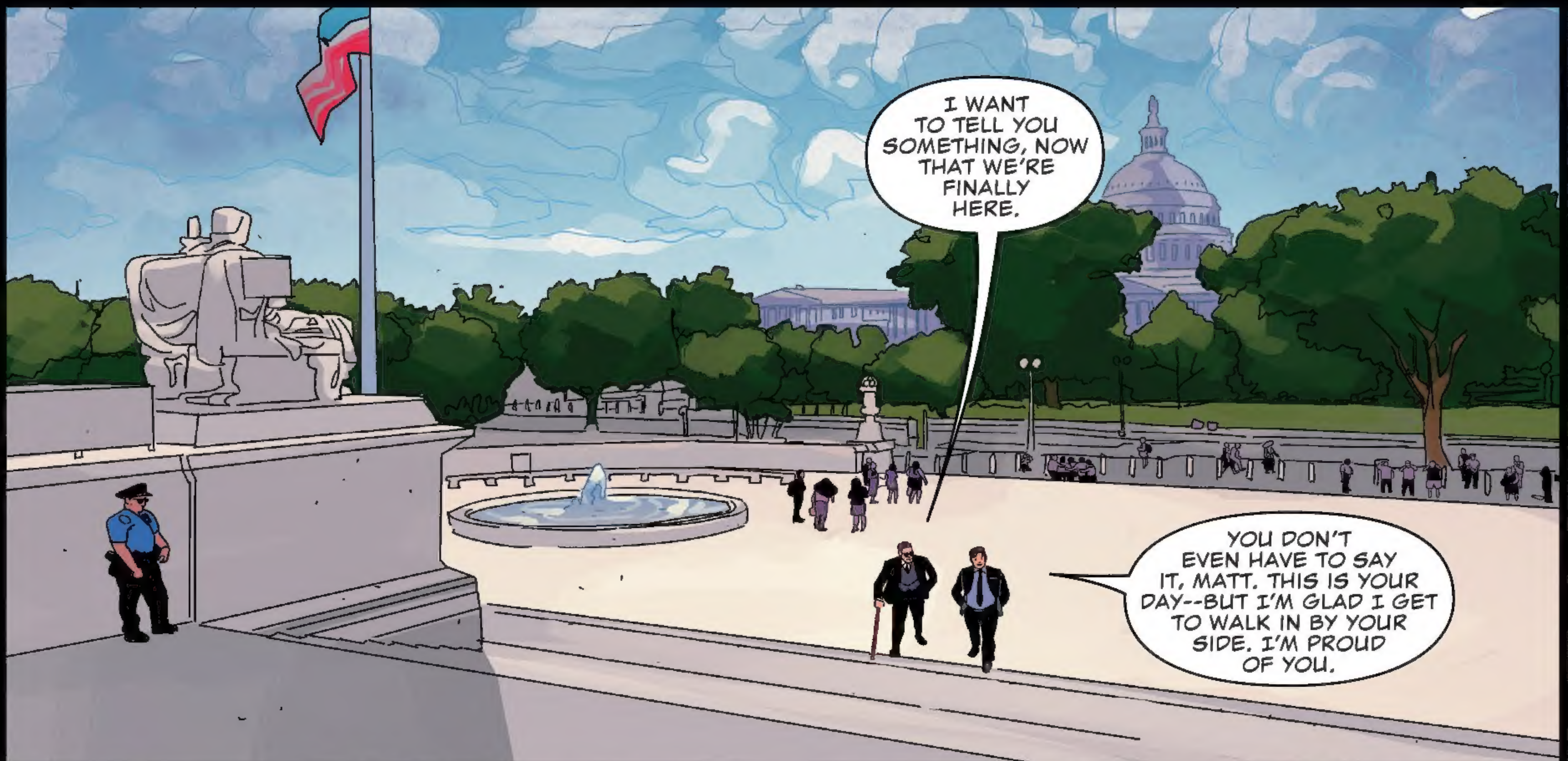
WELL, THEN LET ME BE YOUR EYES, PAL.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

SUPREME CONCLUSION

IT LOOKS FANTASTIC.

The Supreme Court.
My God. *The* Supreme Court.



I WANT TO TELL YOU SOMETHING, NOW THAT WE'RE FINALLY HERE.

YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO SAY IT, MATT. THIS IS YOUR DAY--BUT I'M GLAD I GET TO WALK IN BY YOUR SIDE. I'M PROUD OF YOU.



NO, IT'S NOT... I MEAN, IT *IS* THAT--WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT THIS SINCE LAW SCHOOL, AND I'M SO HAPPY WE'RE DOING IT TOGETHER-- BUT IT'S SOMETHING ELSE.

THE APPELLATE CASE. THE ONE I LOST TO GET HERE, THE ONE WE PETITIONED THE SUPREME COURT TO REOPEN...



...I THREW IT. LOST ON PURPOSE.

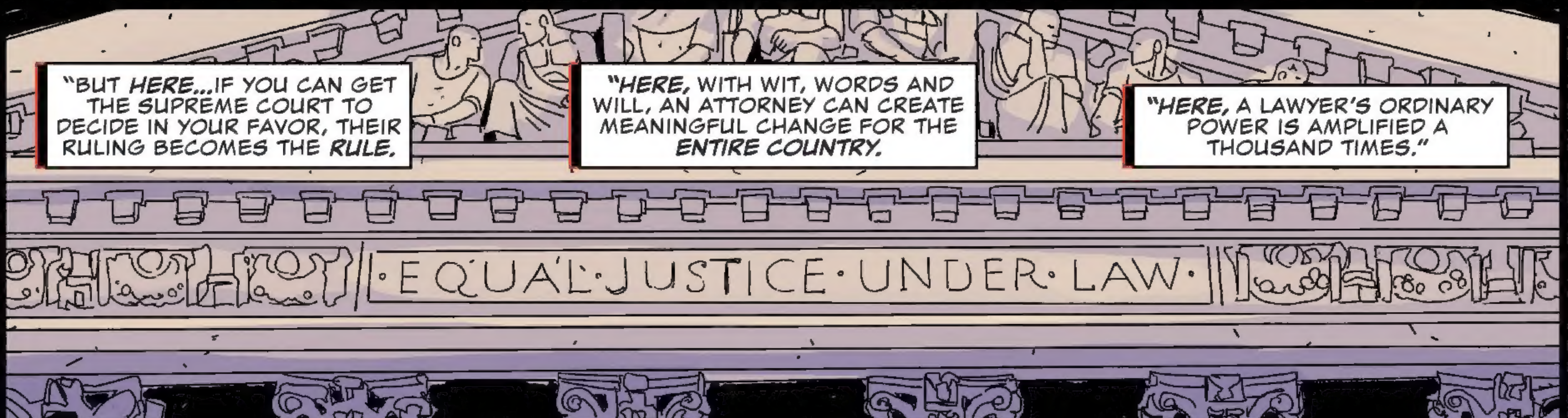
WHAT?

MATT... MY GOD... WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?



HOW MUCH POWER DOES ANY ONE LAWYER REALLY HAVE?

MOST OF THE TIME, WE WORK WITH A SINGLE CLIENT. WE CAN HELP THEM, BUT IN TERMS OF OUR IMPACT ON THE WORLD...IT'S A ONE-AT-A-TIME THING. INCREMENTAL.

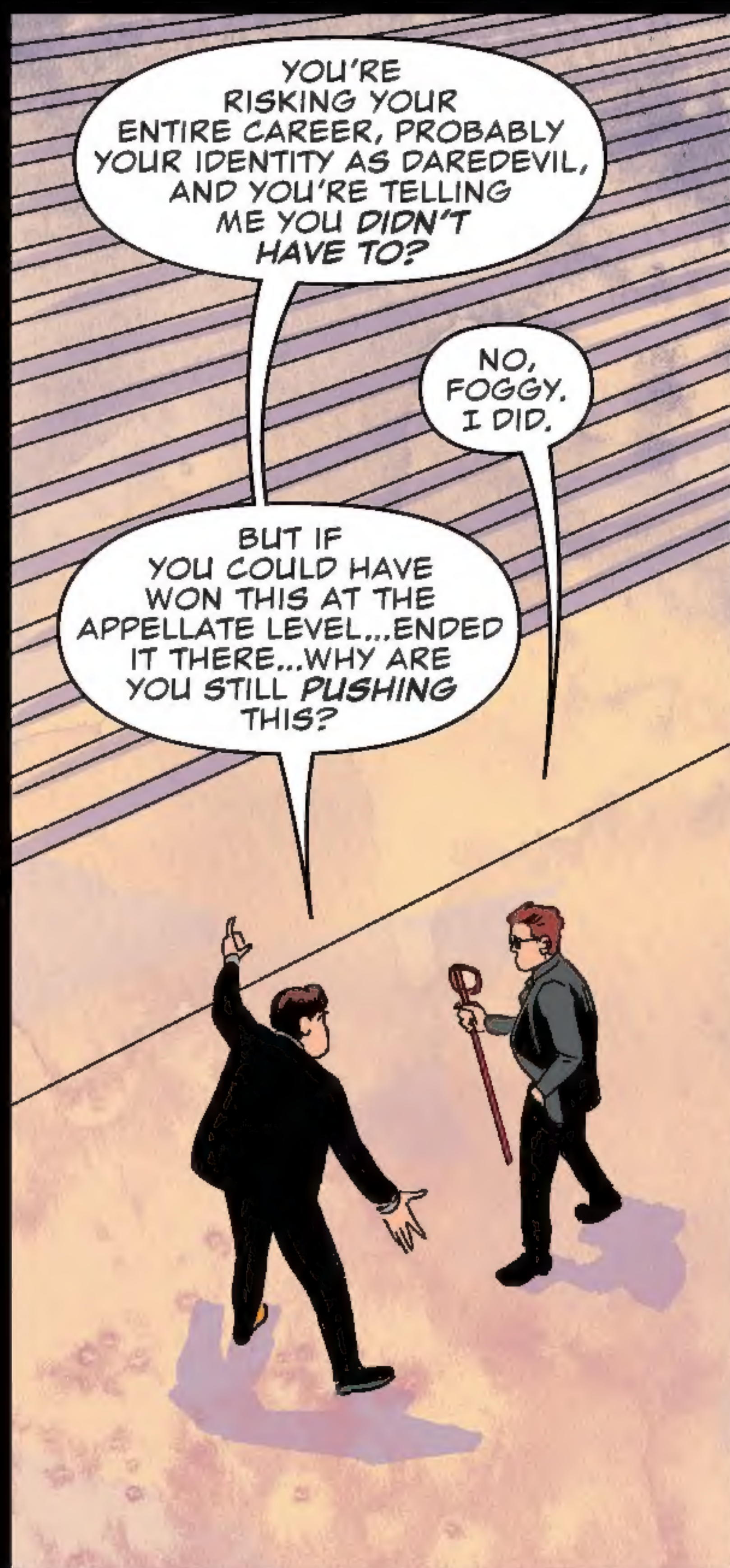
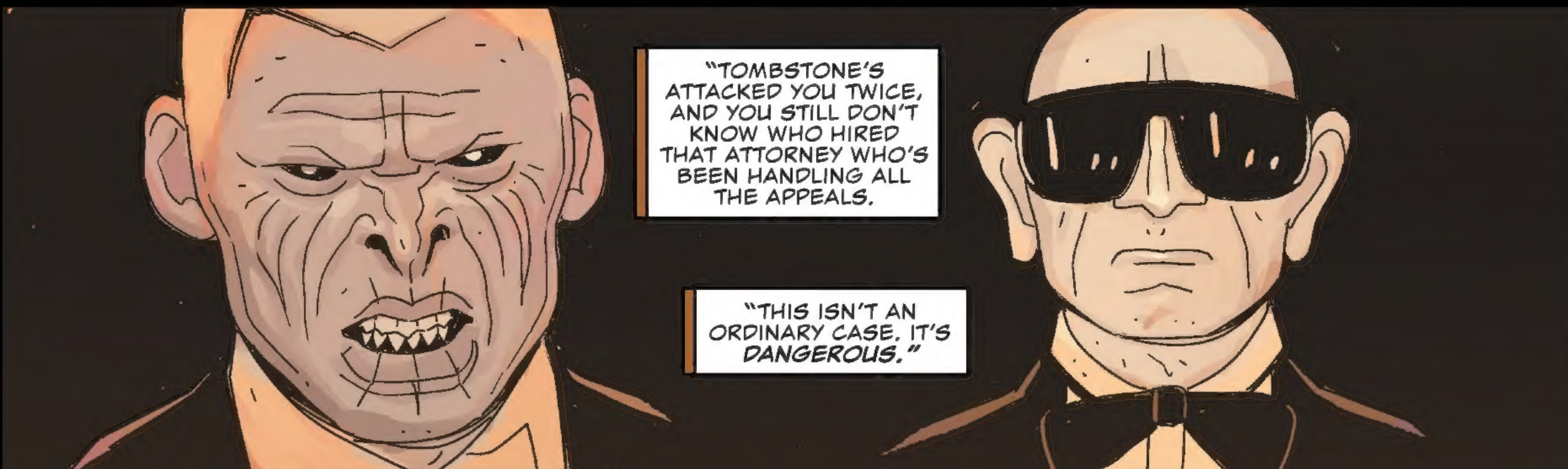


"BUT **HERE**...IF YOU CAN GET THE SUPREME COURT TO DECIDE IN YOUR FAVOR, THEIR RULING BECOMES THE RULE.

"**HERE**, WITH WIT, WORDS AND WILL, AN ATTORNEY CAN CREATE MEANINGFUL CHANGE FOR THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.

"**HERE**, A LAWYER'S ORDINARY POWER IS AMPLIFIED A THOUSAND TIMES."

EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW



A TERRIBLE BAR IN BALTIMORE.





MR. LINCOLN. I AM UNIMPRESSED.

LISTEN, YOU GOTTA UNDERSTAND-- THIS JOB...IT AIN'T EASY. FIRST TRY, THE HULK SHOWS UP...SHE DAMN NEAR KILLS ME!



I TRIED AGAIN, JUST LIKE YOU SAID, HAD HIM RIGHT IN MY SIGHTS, BUT THEN SOMEONE BREAKS A WHISKY BOTTLE ON MY FACE, ALMOST BLINDS ME.

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FIGHT BLIND? BARELY GOT AWAY BEFORE THE COPS SHOWED UP.

I WAS GONNA CHECK IN, BUT YOU KNOW, I HAD TO RECOVER, AND THEN...

ENOUGH, TOMBSTONE.



MURDOCK IS AT THE SUPREME COURT TODAY. YOU WILL COMPLETE THE JOB I HIRED YOU TO DO.



YEAH, BUT THE PAPER SAYS THERE'S A LOT OF SECURITY UP THERE.

THEY'VE LOCKED MURDOCK DOWN AFTER MY LAST COUPLE TRIES, AND I DON'T HAVE--



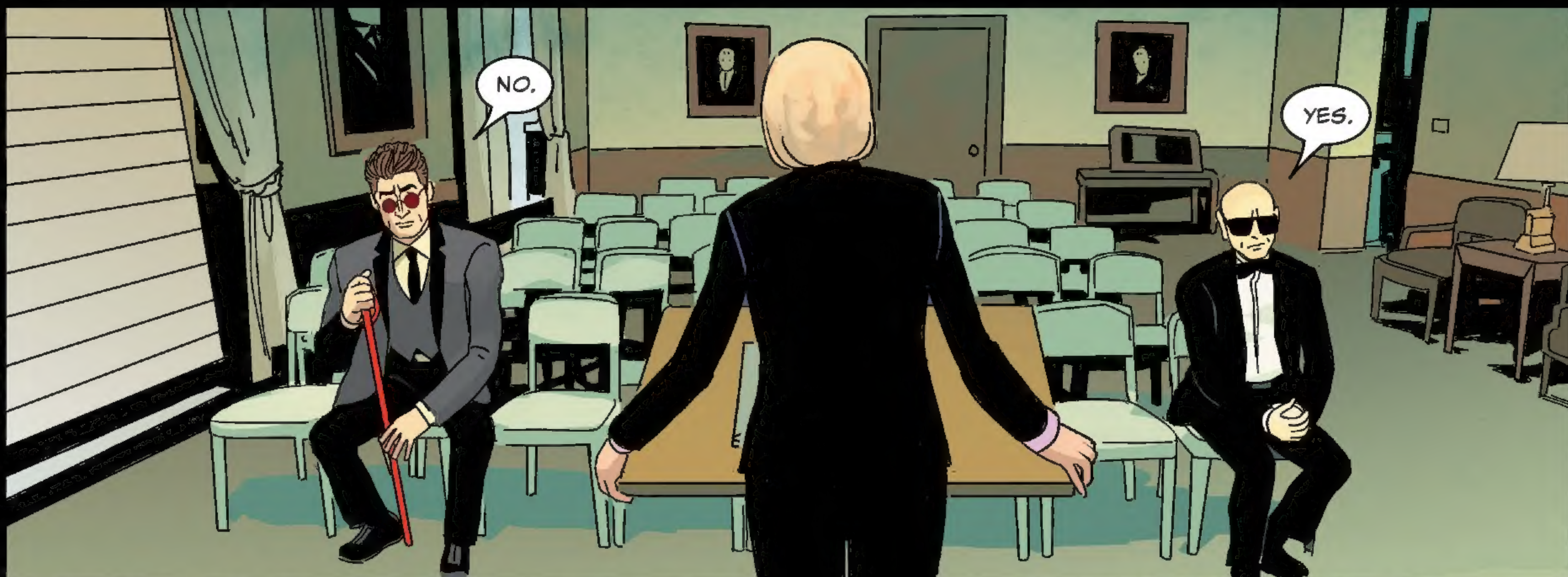
**SUPREME COURT BUILDING.
LAWYER'S LOUNGE.**

HI, MY NAME'S DANA. I'M ONE OF THE CLERKS HERE. HAVE EITHER OF YOU PRESENTED ORAL ARGUMENTS TO THE COURT BEFORE?



NO.

YES.



OKAY, THEN, TO REFRESH: YOU EACH GET 30 MINUTES TO ADDRESS THE JUSTICES--THEY'LL ASK YOU QUESTIONS IF THEY HAVE THEM.



YOU CAN CALL THE JUSTICES BY NAME, BUT IF YOU FORGET, YOU CAN JUST SAY "YOUR HONOR." THAT'S FINE.

JUST SIT TIGHT HERE. YOU'LL BE CALLED WHEN THE JUSTICES ARE READY. WON'T BE LONG.

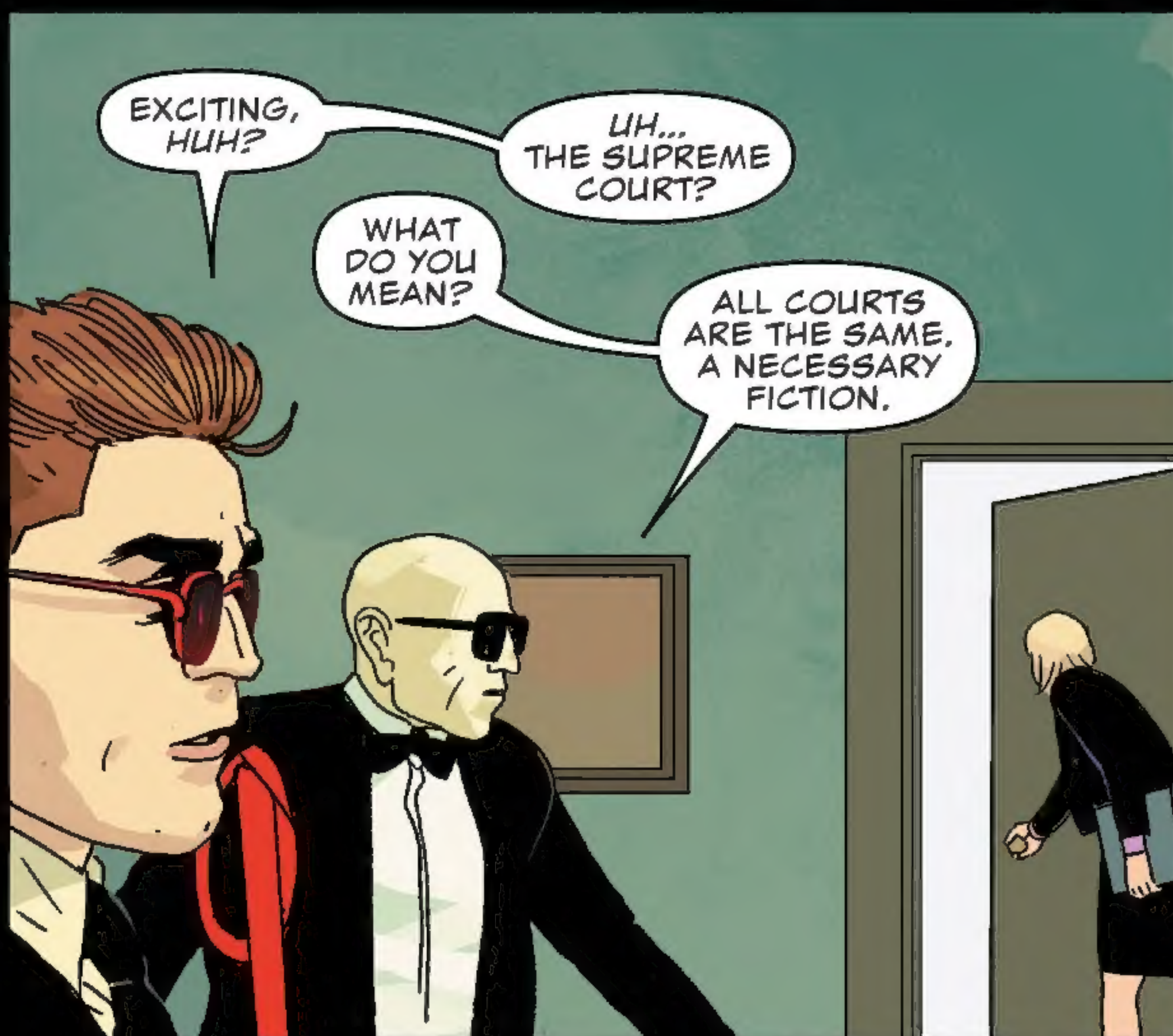


EXCITING, HUH?

UH... THE SUPREME COURT?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

ALL COURTS ARE THE SAME. A NECESSARY FICTION.



OKAY, I'LL BITE.

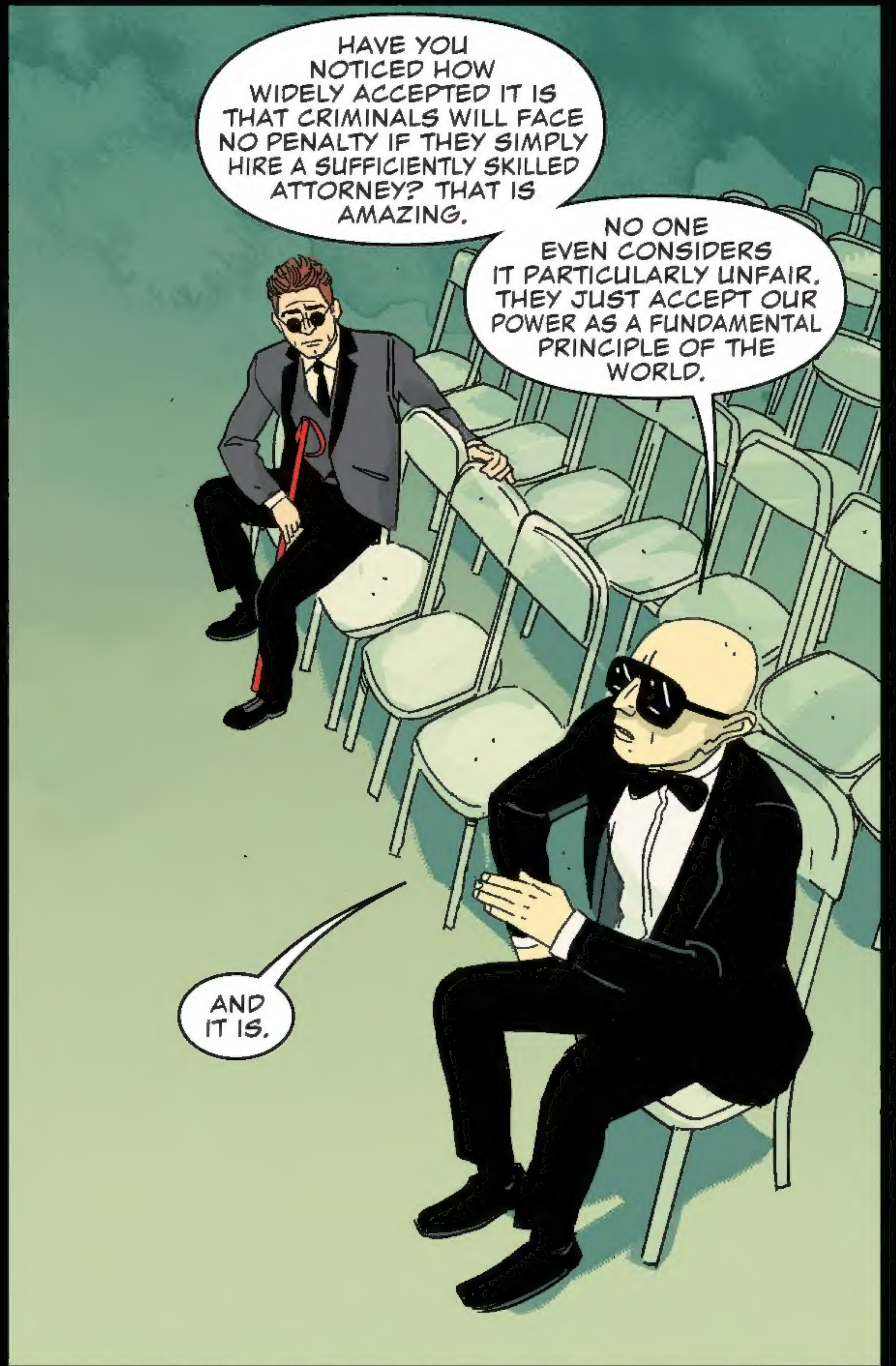
WHAT THE HELL DOES THAT MEAN?

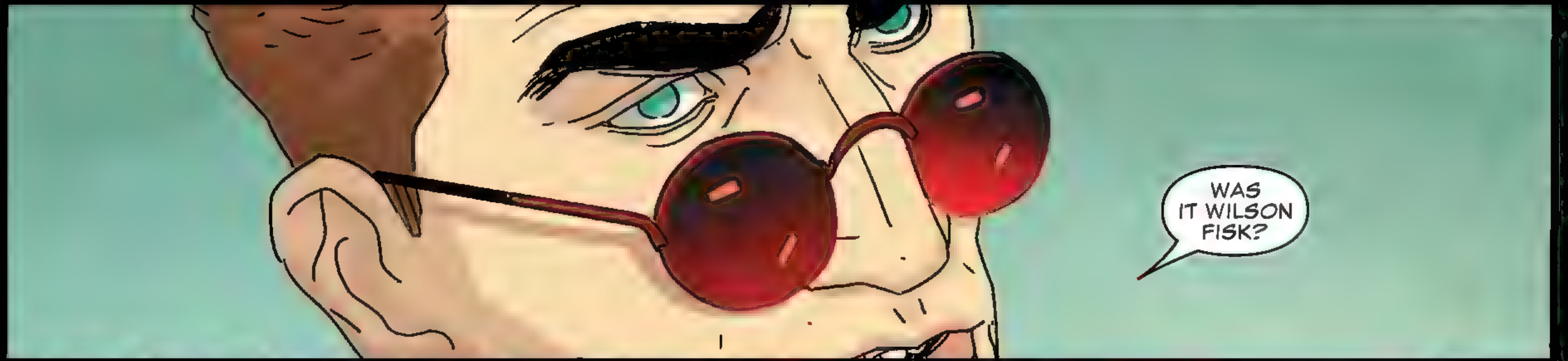
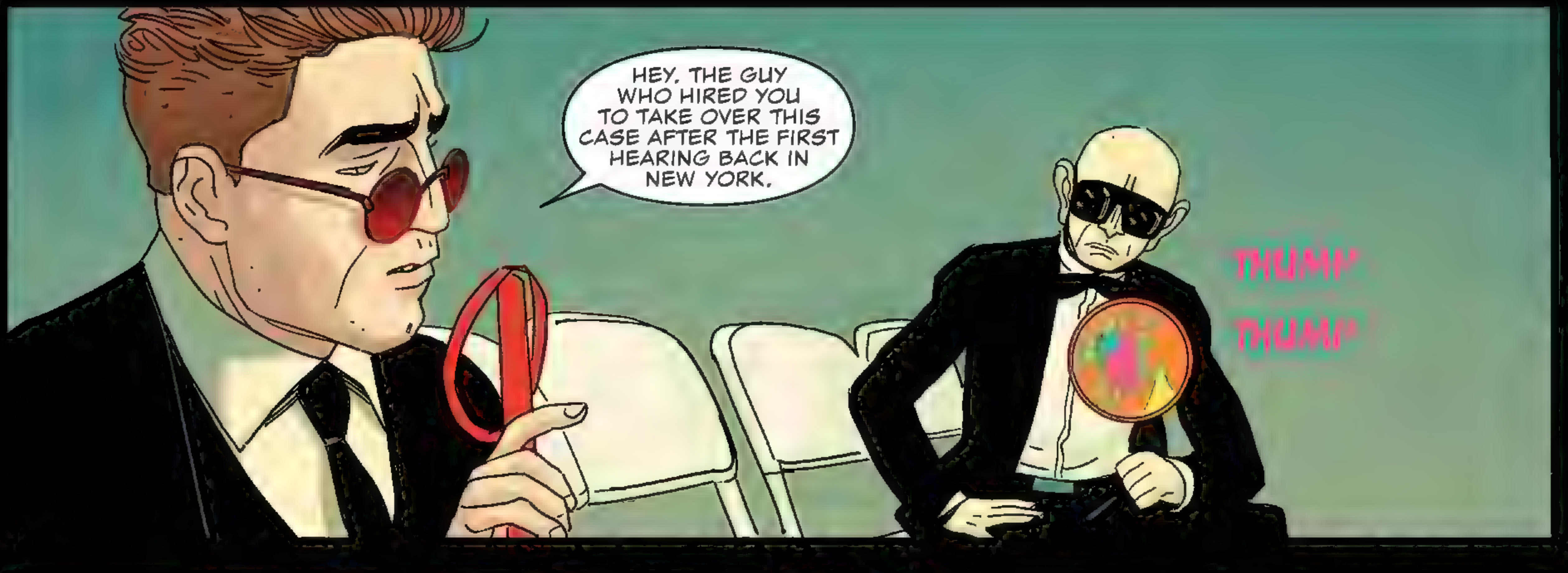


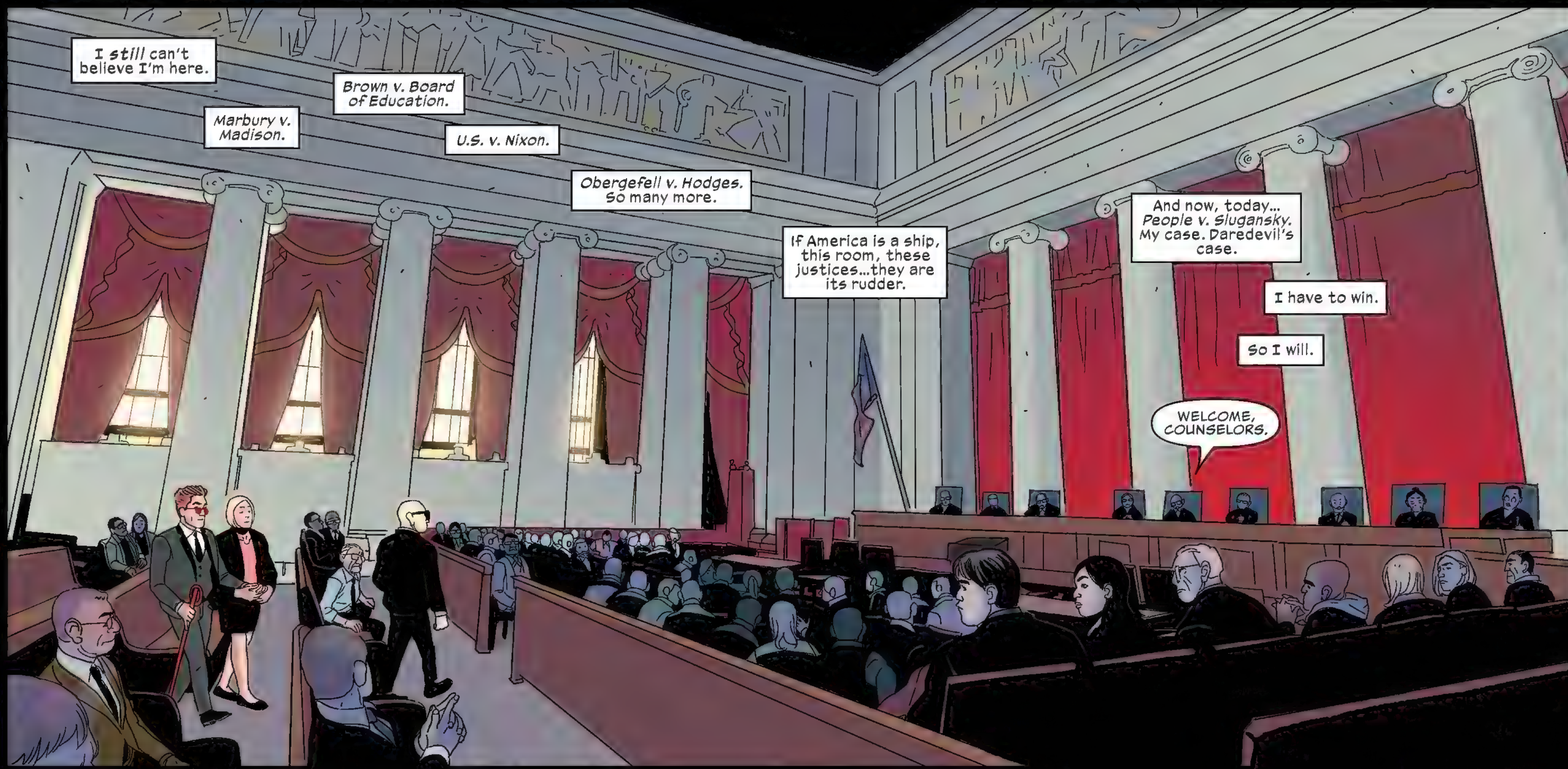
WHY DO YOU PRACTICE LAW, MR. MURDOCK?

WHAT DO YOU THINK IT IS FOR?









I still can't believe I'm here.

Marbury v. Madison.

Brown v. Board of Education.

U.S. v. Nixon.

Obergefell v. Hodges.
So many more.

If America is a ship,
this room, these
justices...they are
its rudder.

And now, today...
People v. *Slugansky*.
My case. Daredevil's
case.

I have to win.

So I will.

WELCOME,
COUNSELORS.



ALL RIGHT,
MR....AH...MURDOCK,
YOU REPRESENT THE
PETITIONER HERE,
THE STATE OF
NEW YORK.

WE'LL BE
HEARING FROM
YOU FIRST.



I SEE HERE
YOU'VE REQUESTED
25 MINUTES TO PRESENT
YOUR ARGUMENT, AND
RESERVED YOUR
FINAL FIVE FOR
REBUTTAL.

IS THAT
CORRECT?



YES, YOUR
HONOR.



PROCEED,
THEN. I DON'T
MIND TELLING YOU,
MY COLLEAGUES AND
I HAVE BEEN LOOKING
FORWARD TO
THIS ONE.

IT'S BEEN
A WHILE SINCE
WE GOT TO HEAR
A GOOD SUPER
HERO CASE.



THANK YOU,
MR. CHIEF JUSTICE,
AND MAY IT PLEASE
THE COURT--

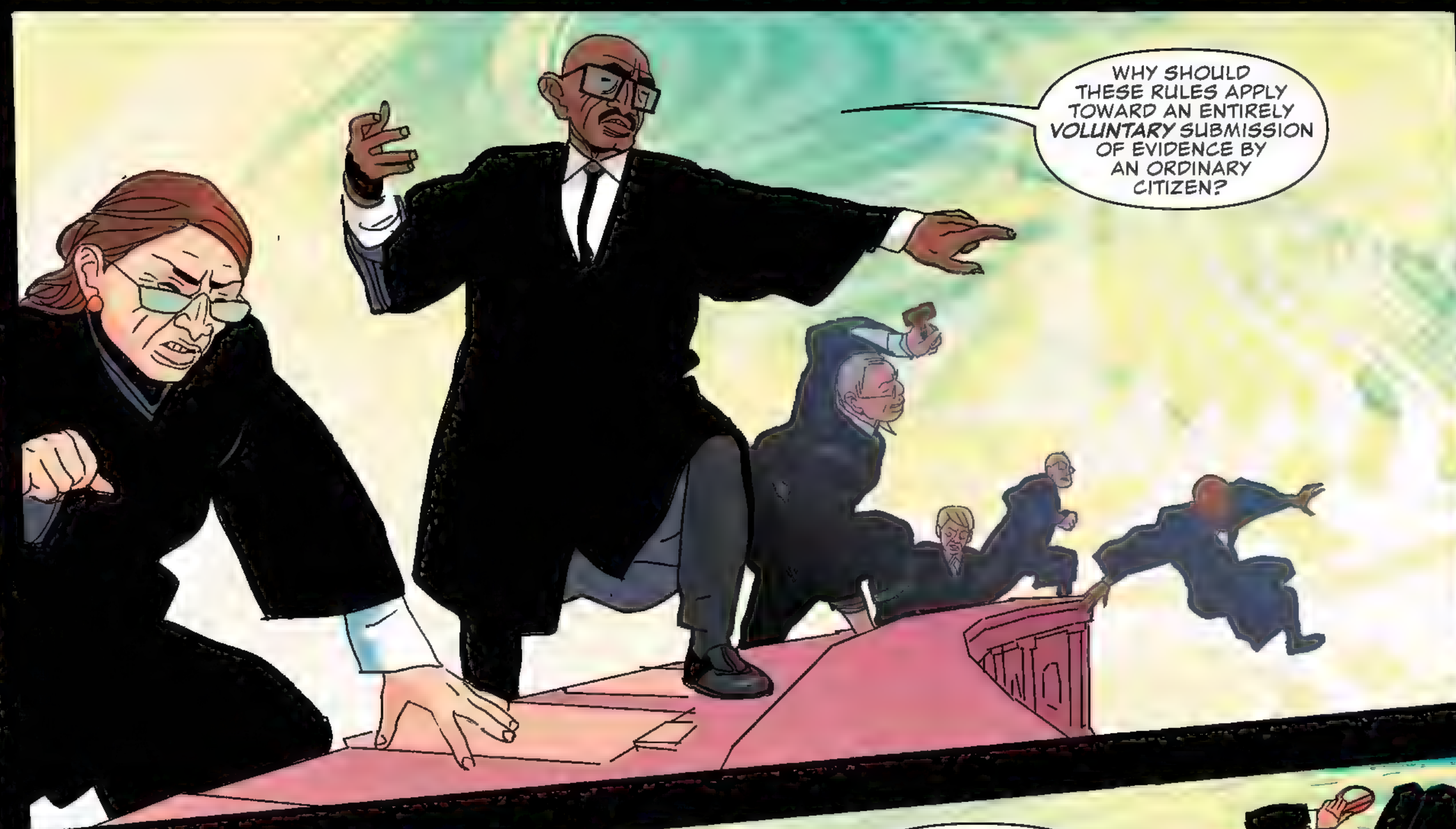
--WE ARE
EXAMINING WHETHER
THE TESTIMONY OF A
PERSON WITH SUPERHUMAN
ABILITIES--IN THIS CASE,
DAREDEVIL...

...IN A CRIMINAL
TRIAL, OFFERED UNDER
EXISTING RULES WITH RESPECT
TO CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS,
VIOLATES THE UNITED STATES
CONSTITUTION.

ROVIARO
PROVIDES A WELL-
ESTABLISHED THREE-
PRONG TEST
FOR--



ROVIARO AND SIMILAR RULES ARE DESIGNED FOR INFORMANTS SELECTED AND VETTED BY THE GOVERNMENT!



WHY SHOULD THESE RULES APPLY TOWARD AN ENTIRELY VOLUNTARY SUBMISSION OF EVIDENCE BY AN ORDINARY CITIZEN?



MASKED SUPER HERO TESTIMONY IS WITHIN THE PENUMBRA OF THE CLEAR SOCIAL INTENT EXPRESSED WITHIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT PRECEDENT.



YOU BELIEVE THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ENCOURAGE ACTIVITIES BY VIGILANTES? BECAUSE IT SEEMS THAT THIS WOULD BE DOING EXACTLY THAT.



I WOULD NOT CALL DAREDEVIL A VIGILANTE, AND I THINK THE PUBLIC AGREES. I WOULD CALL HIM A HERO, A WELL-ESTABLISHED POSITION WITHIN--



BUT YOU AREN'T JUST TALKING ABOUT DAREDEVIL, ARE YOU? YOU WANT THIS NEW RULE TO APPLY TO ANY POWERED PERSON WHO WISHES TO KEEP THEIR IDENTITY HIDDEN.



IMPLEMENTATION WILL CLEARLY NEED SOME THINKING OUT, YES, BUT THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME--



TIME'S UP, COUNSELOR.



MY TURN.



THE FIRST PRONG OF THE ROVIARO TEST DISALLOWS CONFIDENTIALITY FOR INFORMANTS WHO ARE, THEMSELVES, INVOLVED IN THE CRIMINAL ACTIVITY ABOUT WHICH THEY TESTIFY.

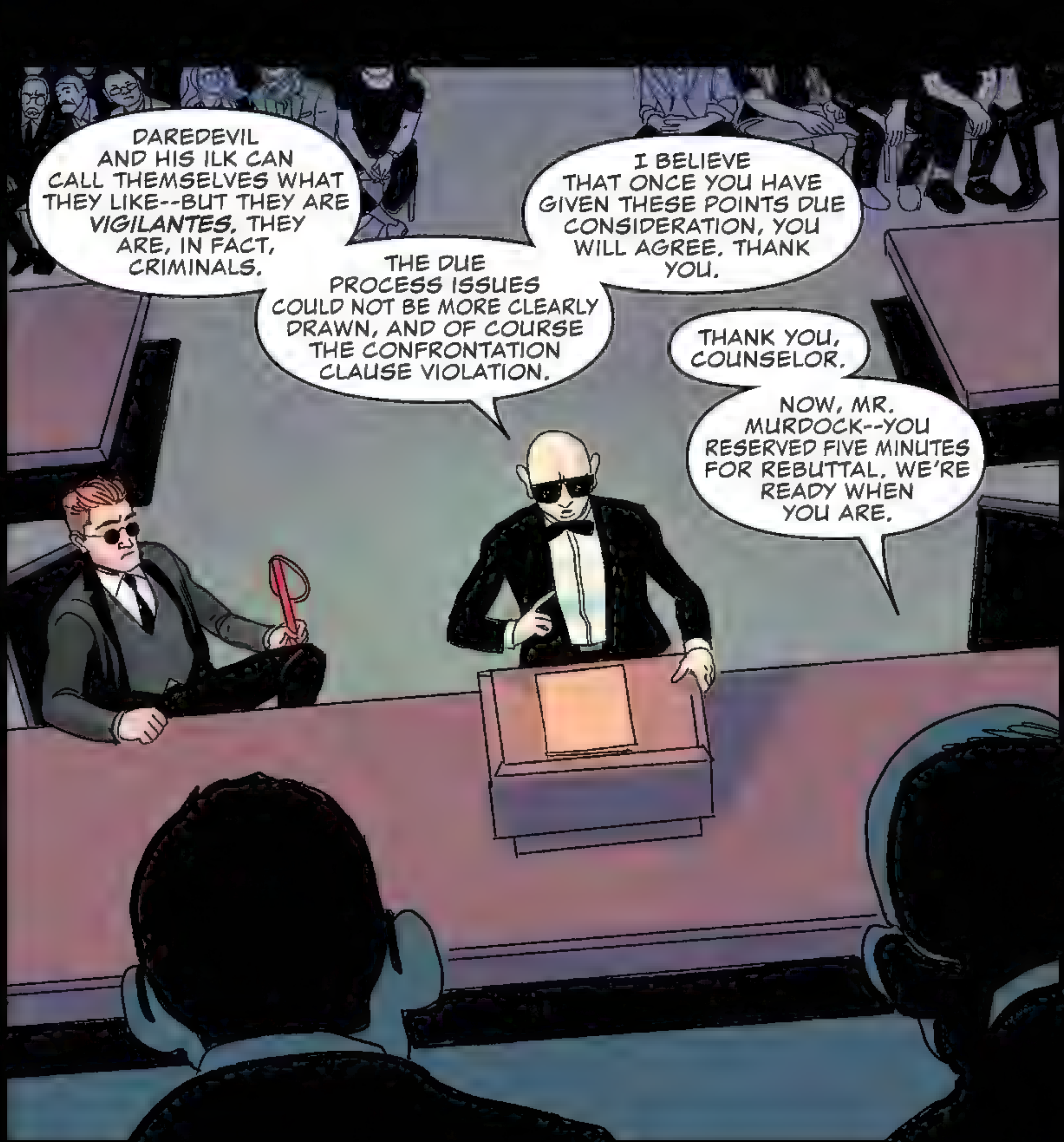
THWMM

Brutal.



IT IS THEREFORE WITHIN THE *PENUMBRA* OF THE RULES--TO USE PETITIONER'S COUNSEL'S TERM--TO PREVENT CRIMINALS FROM TESTIFYING ANONYMOUSLY.

Absolutely brutal.



DAREDEVIL AND HIS ILK CAN CALL THEMSELVES WHAT THEY LIKE--BUT THEY ARE *VIGILANTES*. THEY ARE, IN FACT, CRIMINALS.

THE DUE PROCESS ISSUES COULD NOT BE MORE CLEARLY DRAWN, AND OF COURSE THE CONFRONTATION CLAUSE VIOLATION.

I BELIEVE THAT ONCE YOU HAVE GIVEN THESE POINTS DUE CONSIDERATION, YOU WILL AGREE. THANK YOU.

THANK YOU, COUNSELOR.

NOW, MR. MURDOCK--YOU RESERVED FIVE MINUTES FOR REBUTTAL. WE'RE READY WHEN YOU ARE.



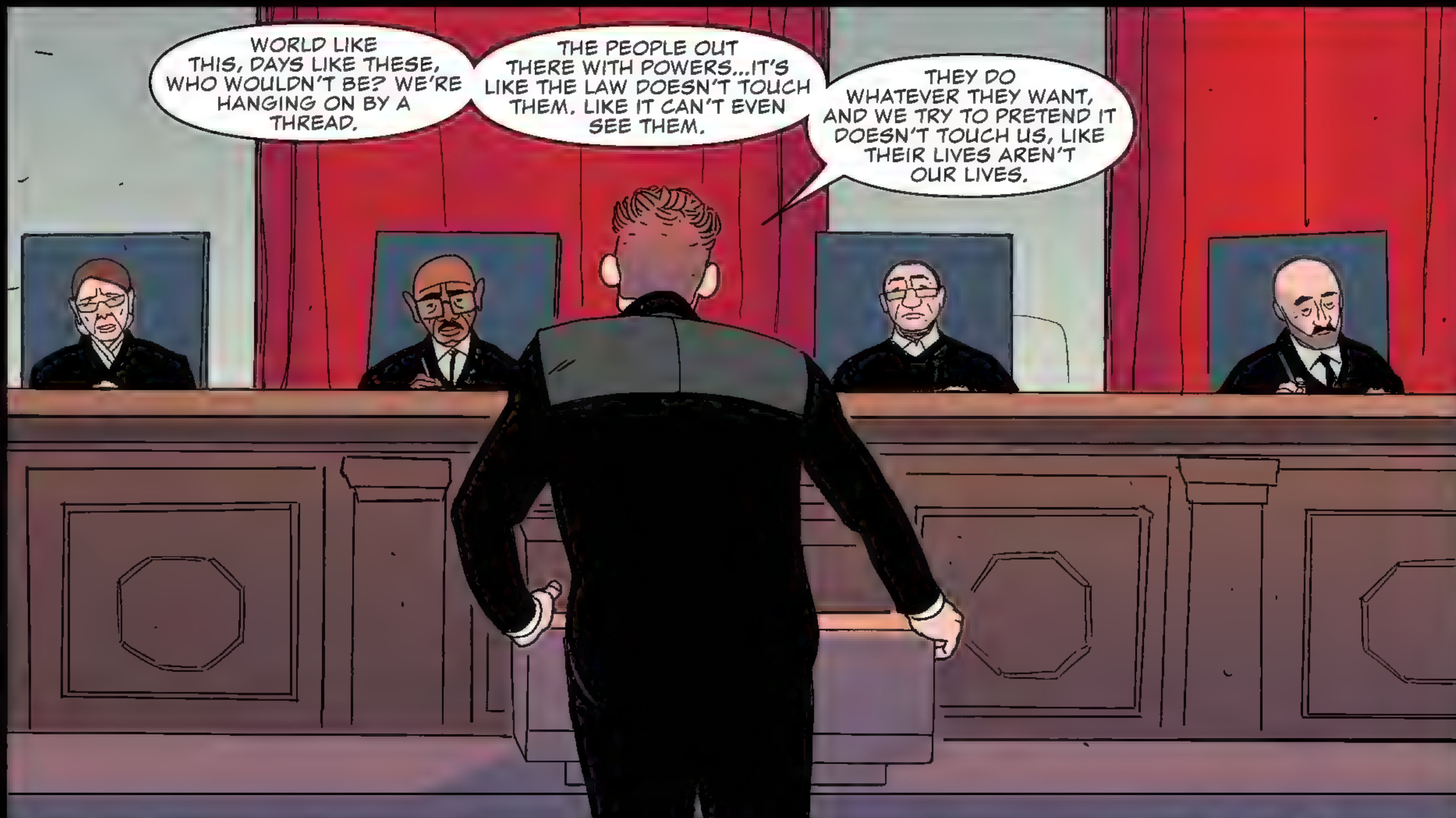
Look at that *smile*. Thinks he's got me.



Thinks I can't see it. Jerk.



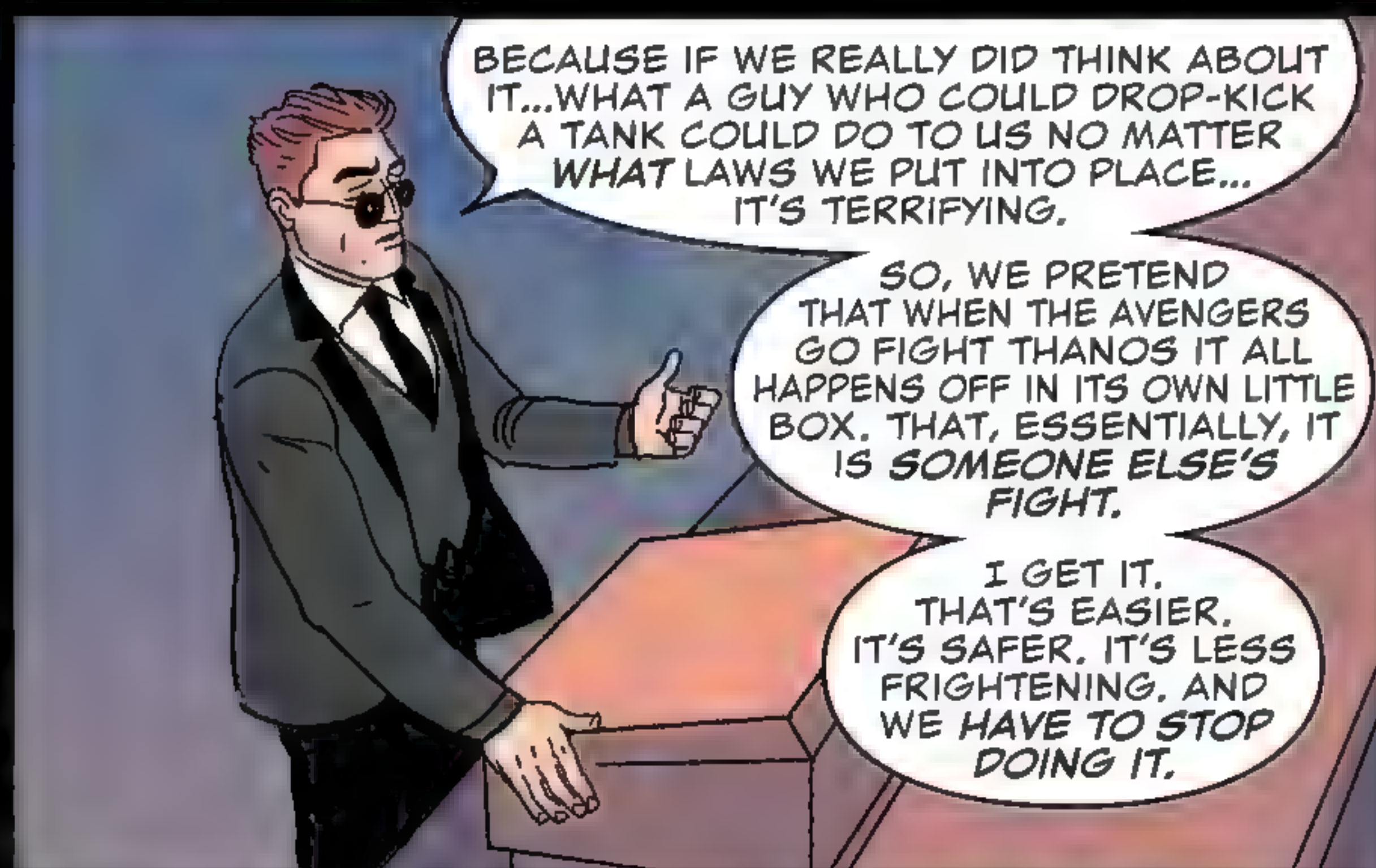
YOU'RE AFRAID, I KNOW THAT.



WORLD LIKE THIS, DAYS LIKE THESE, WHO WOULDN'T BE? WE'RE HANGING ON BY A THREAD.

THE PEOPLE OUT THERE WITH POWERS...IT'S LIKE THE LAW DOESN'T TOUCH THEM. LIKE IT CAN'T EVEN SEE THEM.

THEY DO WHATEVER THEY WANT, AND WE TRY TO PRETEND IT DOESN'T TOUCH US, LIKE THEIR LIVES AREN'T OUR LIVES.



BECAUSE IF WE REALLY DID THINK ABOUT IT...WHAT A GUY WHO COULD DROP-KICK A TANK COULD DO TO US NO MATTER WHAT LAWS WE PUT INTO PLACE... IT'S TERRIFYING.

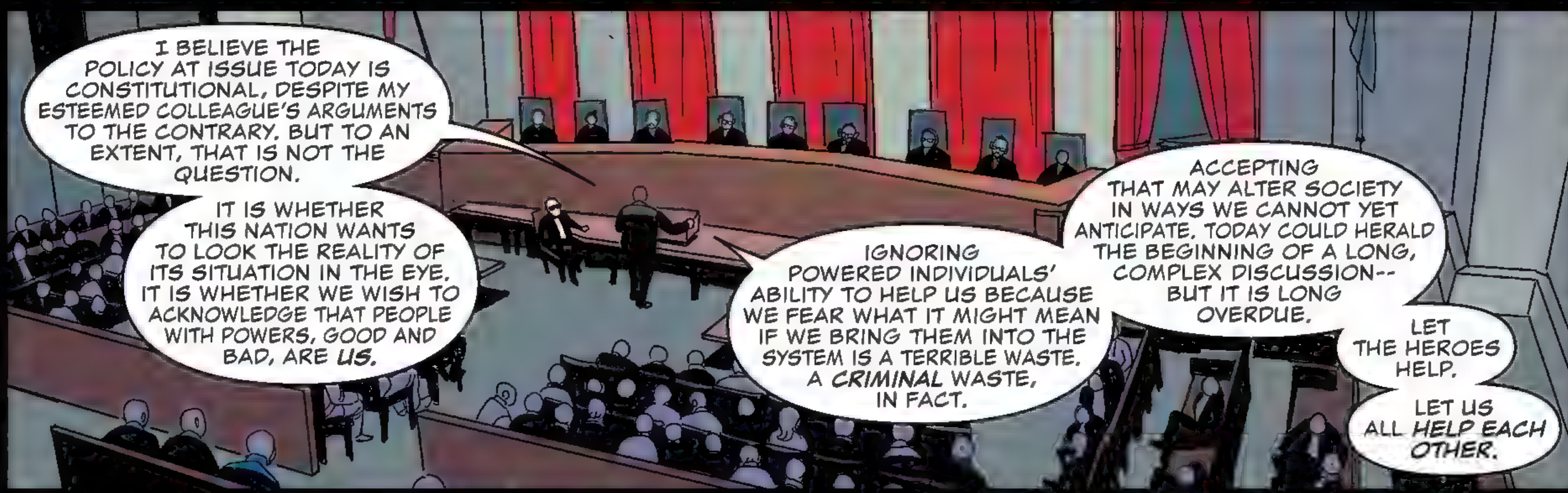
SO, WE PRETEND THAT WHEN THE AVENGERS GO FIGHT THANOS IT ALL HAPPENS OFF IN ITS OWN LITTLE BOX. THAT, ESSENTIALLY, IT IS *SOMEONE ELSE'S* FIGHT.

I GET IT. THAT'S EASIER. IT'S SAFER. IT'S LESS FRIGHTENING. AND WE HAVE TO STOP DOING IT.



EVERYONE GOOD ON THIS PLANET IS FIGHTING *EXACTLY* THE SAME BATTLE.

WE ALL WANT THE WORLD TO BE BETTER TOMORROW THAN IT IS TODAY.



I BELIEVE THE POLICY AT ISSUE TODAY IS CONSTITUTIONAL, DESPITE MY ESTEEMED COLLEAGUE'S ARGUMENTS TO THE CONTRARY. BUT TO AN EXTENT, THAT IS NOT THE QUESTION.

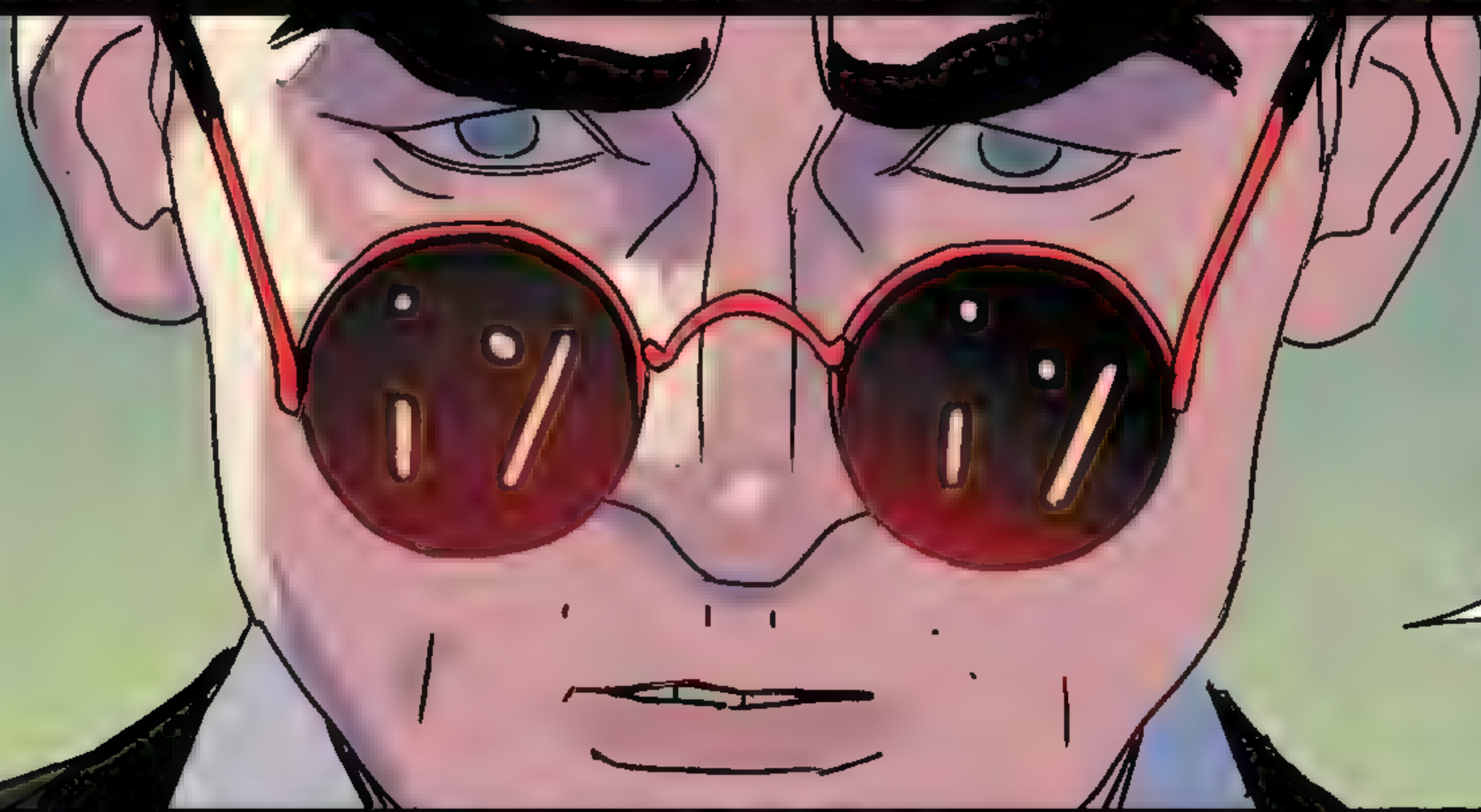
IT IS WHETHER THIS NATION WANTS TO LOOK THE REALITY OF ITS SITUATION IN THE EYE. IT IS WHETHER WE WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT PEOPLE WITH POWERS, GOOD AND BAD, ARE *US*.

IGNORING POWERED INDIVIDUALS' ABILITY TO HELP US BECAUSE WE FEAR WHAT IT MIGHT MEAN IF WE BRING THEM INTO THE SYSTEM IS A TERRIBLE WASTE, A *CRIMINAL* WASTE, IN FACT.

ACCEPTING THAT MAY ALTER SOCIETY IN WAYS WE CANNOT YET ANTICIPATE. TODAY COULD HERALD THE BEGINNING OF A LONG, COMPLEX DISCUSSION-- BUT IT IS LONG OVERDUE.

LET THE HEROES HELP.

LET US ALL HELP EACH OTHER.



DON'T BE AFRAID.

TEN DAYS LATER.

--ITS RULING IN THE HISTORIC PEOPLE V. SLUGANSKY CASE, A 7-2 DECISION THAT EXTENDS SPECIFIC CONFIDENTIALITY PROTECTIONS TO MEMBERS OF THE SUPER HERO COMMUNITY.

THE CASE, CONTROVERSIAL IN SOME QUARTERS, IS EXPECTED TO HAVE WIDE-RANGING EFFECTS ON LAW-ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

IT EFFECTIVELY TRANSFORMS MANY OF THE POWERED HEROES FROM VIGILANTES, TO WHOM THE LAW HAD TO TURN A BLIND EYE, INTO ACTUAL PARTICIPANTS IN THE LEGAL SYSTEM.

THE CASE WAS SUCCESSFULLY ARGUED BY MANHATTAN ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY MATT MURDOCK, HIMSELF KNOWN FOR HIS CONNECTIONS WITH THE POWERED COMMUNITY.

WHILE IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO DETERMINE THE FULL IMPACT OF THE SLUGANSKY RULING, OUR ANALYSTS BELIEVE IT WILL HAVE A DRASTIC EFFECT ON CRIME RATES ACROSS THE NATION.

MY GOD, MATT. YOU DID IT.

BZZ

HUH. SPEAK OF THE DEVIL.

HEY, MATT-- JUST SAW THE COURT ISSUED ITS RULING. CONGRATULATIONS, MAN! YOU ACTUALLY PULLED IT OFF. YOU READ THE DECISION YET? YOU GOTTA SEND IT TO ME.

I WILL, FOGGY, AND YEAH, IT'S GREAT... BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I'M CALLING.

YOU REMEMBER YOU ASKED ME A QUESTION, BACK IN D.C.? WHY I DECIDED TO TAKE THIS CASE TO THE MAT, WHEN IT WAS PROBABLY A STUPID IDEA, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED?



YEAH. I MIGHT REMEMBER SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

IT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME THAT I DIDN'T REALLY HAVE AN ANSWER. I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT EVER SINCE.

I THINK I HAVE IT, THOUGH.



AS DAREDEVIL, I GET TO SAVE THE WORLD. AS A LAWYER...

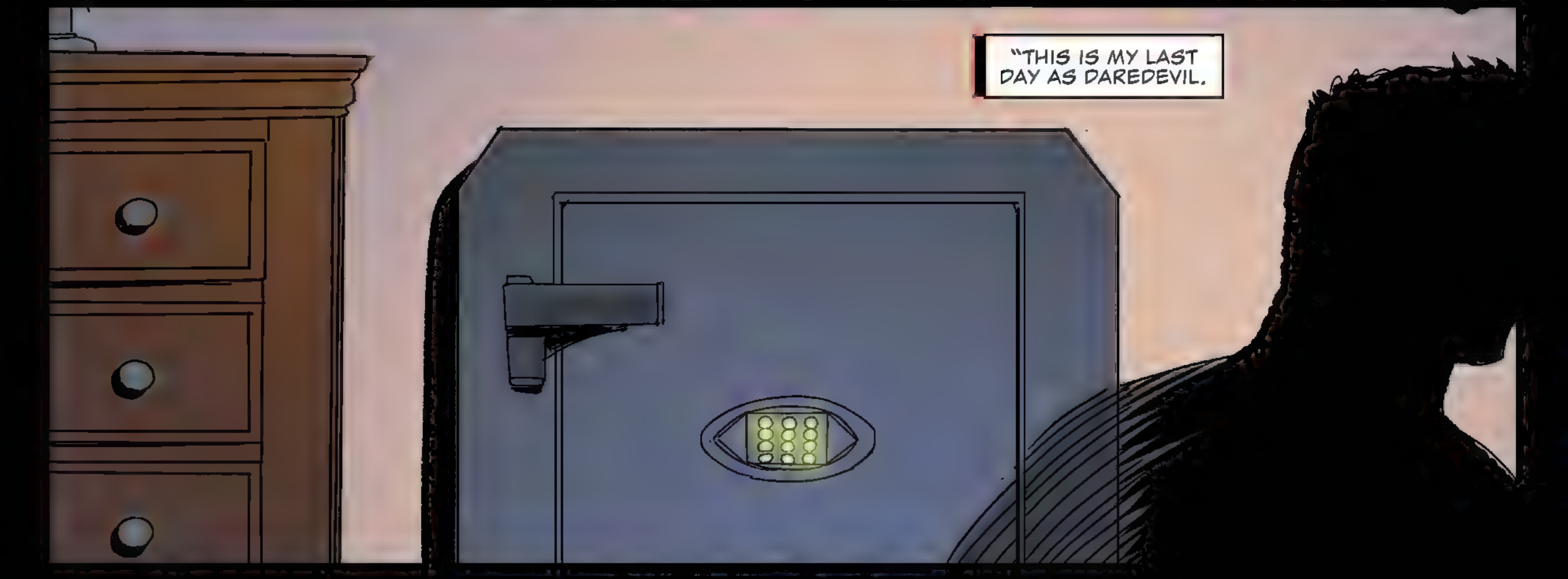


...MAYBE I CAN FIX IT.



I NEED THEM BOTH. THAT'S WHAT I REALIZED. THE WARRIOR AND THE LAWYER.

IT DOESN'T WORK IF I ONLY HAVE ONE. THAT WAS MY MISTAKE, AND MY GOD, I PAID FOR IT. BUT I'M PUTTING ALL OF THAT BEHIND ME.



"THIS IS MY LAST DAY AS DAREDEVIL."



"BUT IT'S ALSO
MY FIRST."





IT'S FOR YOU.

YEAH? ABOUT TIME. I BEEN WAITIN' FOR THIS.

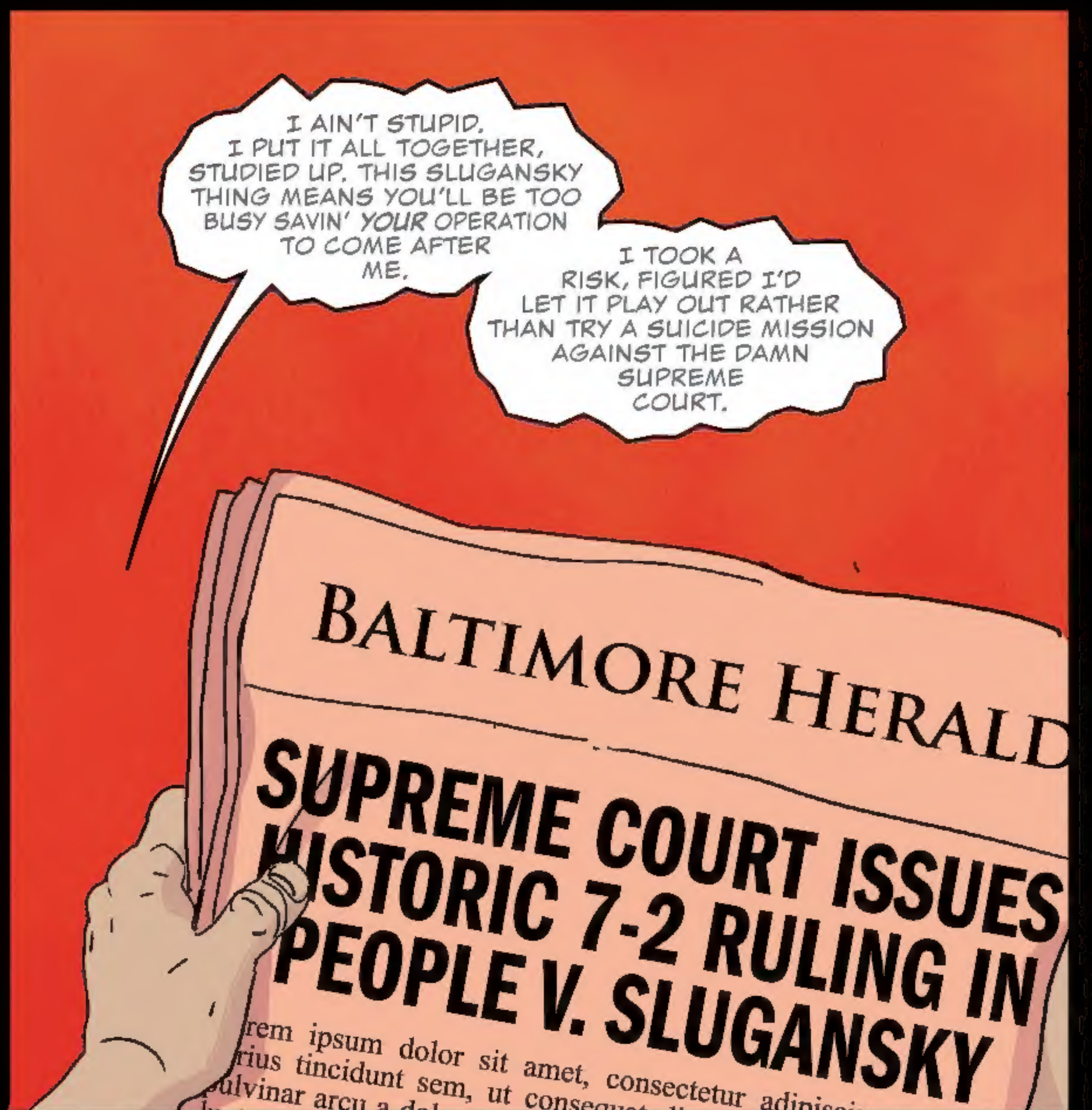


TOMBSTONE, YOU DID NOTHING.

YEAH, SAT RIGHT ON MY KEISTER IN THIS DIVE THE WHOLE TIME.

YOU KNOW THERE WILL BE CONSEQUENCES.

FOR YOU, MAYBE. MURDOCK WON.



I AIN'T STUPID. I PUT IT ALL TOGETHER, STUDIED UP. THIS SLUGANSKY THING MEANS YOU'LL BE TOO BUSY SAVIN' YOUR OPERATION TO COME AFTER ME.

I TOOK A RISK, FIGURED I'D LET IT PLAY OUT RATHER THAN TRY A SUICIDE MISSION AGAINST THE DAMN SUPREME COURT.



SEEMED LIKE A SAFE BET--ANYONE WHO SCARED YOU THAT MUCH HAD A PRETTY GOOD SHOT OF WINNING. AND THIS MURDOCK GUY SCARED YOU PLENTY.

TOMBSTONE, IF YOU THINK YOU CAN CROSS ME AND--



SEE YA 'ROUND, WILSON.

KRCK

NEW YORK.

RRAGH!



KRRSH



**THIS
IS MY
CITY!**



**THIS
IS MY
CITY.**

**PLAN C,
MR. FISK?**

**YES,
WESLEY. I THINK
SO.**



PLAN C.

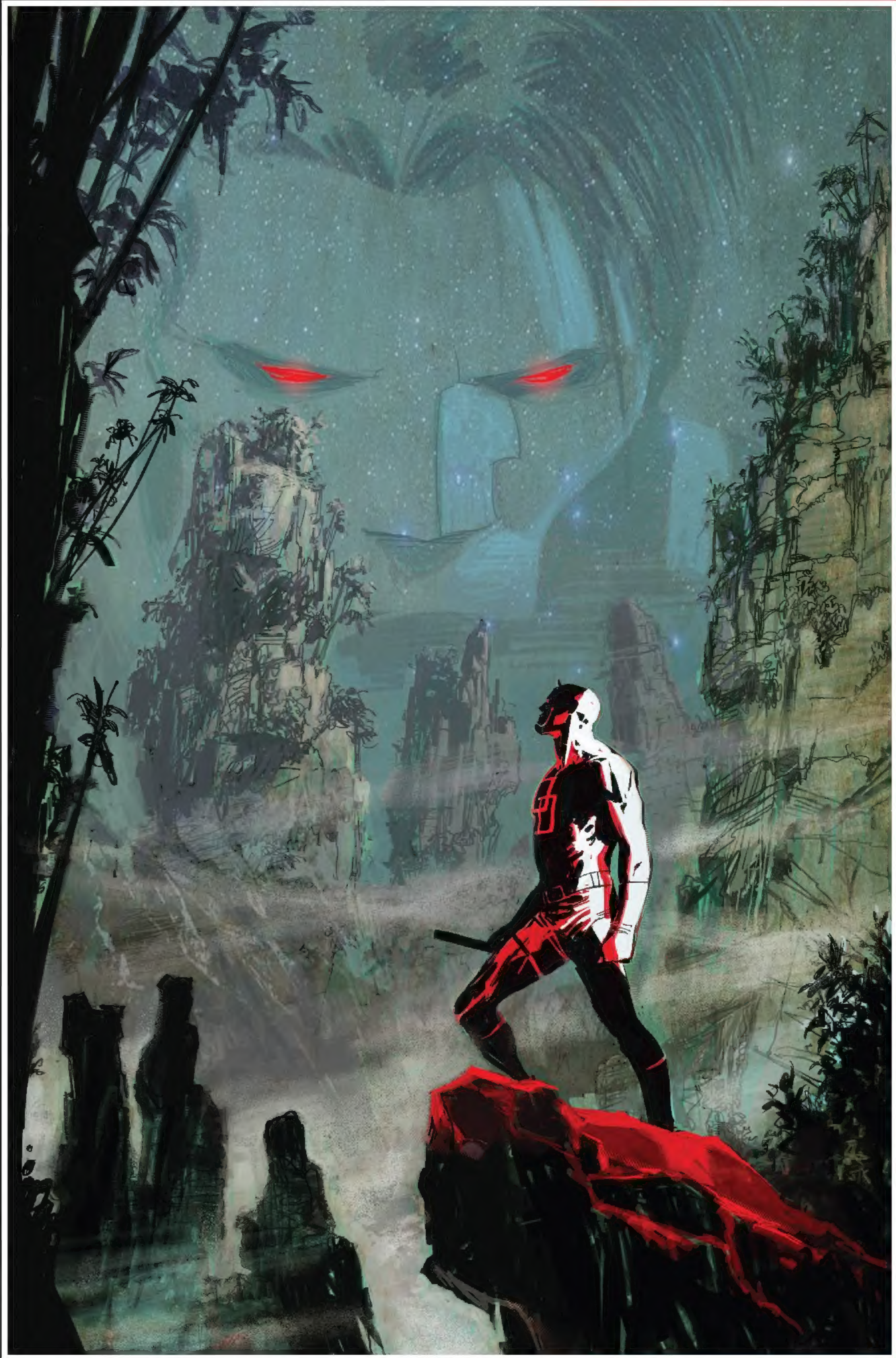


**NEXT: LAND
OF THE BLIND!**

NEXT ISSUE:

— NEW ARC STARTS HERE —

“THE LAND OF THE BLIND”



DAREDEVIL #26

